

was established as a temporary entity and, 30 years later, will receive \$67 million more from taxpayers across America?

Mr. President, this is the kind of behind-the-scenes sidestepping of the checks and balances on federal spending that continues to undermine the public's trust in their elected officials. The practice of earmarking projects based on parochial, rather than national, interests is one of the principal reasons the public holds the Congress in low esteem.

Ironically, Mr. President, the Committee admonishes the Administration for "inappropriate uses of appropriations" in its report language. Yet, this bill endorses, in fact, mandates inappropriate spending to the tune of \$920 million.

I had thought that we were making positive progress in eliminating wasteful and unnecessary spending from the legislative process. Unfortunately, the earmarks and set-asides in this bill greatly exceed the level in last year's Energy/Water Appropriations bill. Last year, the Senate earmarked \$312 million in its version of the bill. This bill earmarks \$920 million, which is nearly three times the amount of earmarks in last year's bill.

Mr. President, is it any wonder that Americans continue to express a sense of cynicism about government?

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and in both Houses to work harder to curb our habit of funneling resources to provincial ventures. Serving the public good must continue to be our mandate, and we can only live up to that charge by keeping the process free of unfair and unnecessary spending that further burdens the American taxpayer.●

FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, it is my pleasure today to recall that fifteen years ago, the U.S. Congress and the Bundestag of the Federal Republic of Germany resolved to establish and co-sponsor the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (CBYX). This decision was in recognition of the long-standing ties of friendship between the peoples of Germany and the United States, in particular the special sense of partnership that existed, and still exists, between our two legislatures, and the importance of continuing to build and strengthen that relationship.

Our common aim was to make a lasting and substantial contribution to the peace of the world by making it possible for young people from our two countries, regardless of their means, to spend a school year abroad, learning about the other country's culture and way of life through extended first-hand experience. We recognized then, and we should reaffirm now, that this kind and quality of people-to-people exchange is crucial to building and maintaining understanding between nations.

Since June of 1983, over 11,000 young people from Germany and the U.S. have participated in this exchange. Perhaps more importantly, German and American families have hosted these 11,000 participants, taking them into their homes and communities, forming enduring friendships, and nurturing their ability to see the world through another's eyes. The earliest of these participants are mature adults now, many of them assuming positions of leadership in their communities, their horizons forever broadened in their youth by their experience in the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange.

Citizens like these are the foundation upon which the close partnership between Germany and the U.S. ultimately rests. As we look forward to even greater unity among the nations of a Europe that will soon include countries once separated by the Iron Curtain and we recognize the leading role that Germany plays in that process, the importance of this partnership is abundantly clear. The success of the CBYX program over the past fifteen years forms one of the essential elements of this bond, and we should do whatever we can to ensure the program's future.

Therefore, on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of this remarkable program, I extend very special greetings on behalf of the United States Senate to our fellow legislators in the German Bundestag. I sincerely hope that the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program continues to strengthen the deep ties of friendship and understanding between our two peoples.●

TRIBUTE TO TOM A. ROGERS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1998 DISCOVER CARD STATE TRIBUTE AWARD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Tom A. Rogers of New Hampshire for receiving the Discover Card State Tribute Award Scholarship for 1998.

Established in 1992, the Discover Card Tribute Award program honors outstanding high school juniors and seniors across the United States and overseas schools. The Tribute Award Program honors excellence in community service, leadership, special talents, unique endeavors and obstacles overcome. Of nearly 11,000 students nationwide who applied this year, only those who most exemplify these characteristics receive the scholarships. Winners may use their scholarships for any type of post-high school education or training.

Gold, silver, bronze and merit State Tribute Award scholarships are awarded in three categories of study: Arts and Humanities, Trade and Technical or Science, Business and Technology. Due to his outstanding written statement, Tom received a bronze award in the category of Science, Business and Technology Studies.

It is no wonder Tom is one of the recipients of such a competitive award. A member of National Honor Society, and currently ranked first in his academic class, Tom is nothing short of a model student for all of his peers. In addition, he is a member of the Math Team, Outing Club and the Cross Country Team at Farmington High School in Farmington, New Hampshire. Due to his stellar academic achievements, Tom participates in University of New Hampshire's "Project Search," a lecture series designed to allow advanced students across the state meet one another and discuss various topics of importance. All of the activities in which Tom participates illustrate his integral role as a member of his community.

I wish to congratulate Tom for all of his accomplishments, and especially for being a distinguished recipient of the Discover Card State Tribute Award. It is an honor to represent Tom A. Rogers in The United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO MICHELLE K. FRANKE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1998 DISCOVER CARD STATE TRIBUTE AWARD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Michelle K. Franke of New Hampshire for receiving the Discover Card State Tribute Award Scholarship for 1998.

Established in 1992, the Discover Card Tribute Award program honors outstanding high school juniors and seniors across the United States and overseas schools. The Tribute Award Program honors excellence in community service, leadership, special talents, unique endeavors and obstacles overcome. Of nearly 11,000 students nationwide who applied this year, only those who most exemplify these characteristics receive the scholarships. Winners may use their scholarships for any type of post-high school education or training.

Gold, silver, bronze and merit State Tribute Award scholarships are awarded in three categories of study: Arts and Humanities, Trade and Technical or Science, Business and Technology. Due to her outstanding written statement, Michelle received a bronze award in the category of Arts and Humanities Studies.

It is no wonder Michelle is one of the recipients of such a competitive award. Throughout the past three years, Michelle's activities have included the National Honor Society, track team, cross country running team, poetry club and drama club at Kennett High School in Conway, New Hampshire. She has represented her school and community at the Summer Institute for the Gifted, the Teen Institute, the Teen Leadership Conference and the World Affairs Seminar. Michelle is also a volunteer at the public library and at a local nursing home.